A Staff Study

of

THE MOBILE MILITARY SERVICEPERSON and EMERGENCY HOUSING PROBLEMS

Submitted by

Ch (MAJ) Gerald M. Mangham
Student Detachment, C-22, 1976
USACHCS, Fort Wadsworth, N.Y. 10305

HQ, USACHCS
Fort Wadsworth, N.Y. 10305
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SUBJECT: The Mobile Military Serviceperson and Emergency Housing Problems.

1. PROBLEM. To determine whether a program consisting of volunteer hosts to assist transient Servicepeople should be implemented, (Good Samaritan).

2. ASSUMPTIONS.

a. Military personnel are faced with repetitive anxiety producing events associated with changes of Station.

b. The inherent transient nature of military service demands minimal trauma while the Serviceperson (and family) is being integrated into the new Station community.

c. The military community best asserts itself by utilizing all of its resources in "taking care of its own" thus maintaining high motivation, good efficiency and morale.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

a. Service members with and without dependents are suffering initial hardships upon arrival to Fort Emerson in regard to housing shortages in both the military and civilian communities.

b. Projected troop gains currently surpass known construction projects designed to alleviate housing shortages of both long and short term duration.

4. DISCUSSION.

a. The Good Samaritan Program is a voluntary community project to provide short term housing to temporarily assist those personnel who have exhausted all reasonable housing and financial resources in providing for the welfare of their dependents. Volunteer hosts will be solicited by various military and civilian groups, fully cognizant of the intent of the program, i.e., regardless of prejudicial restrictions such as race, color, creed, or rank. This program would promote solidarity in the military community.

b. The alternate solution is to follow normal housing and in-processing procedures. This places the responsibility on the serviceperson, allowing the Army to do its best within the parenthesis of resources available at time. Unit responsibility would become critical in a particular way in seeking to care for its personnel.

c. Further details are in Annex A.

5. CONCLUSIONS. The Good Samaritan Program offers a valid phase-in, phase-out solution to temporary but critical housing needs at Fort Emerson. The

advantages of mobilizing the military community in a volunteer solution outweighs the disadvantages and addresses an immediate problem. The present inprocessing system cannot facilitate the current and projected personnel input for Fort Emerson regarding housing.

6. RECOMMENDED ACTION. That The Good Samaritan Program be approved.

Gerald M. Mangham

GERALD M. MANGHAM
CH (MAJ) USA
STU DET, C-22-76

ANNEXES: A—Discussion
B—Host Volunteer Statement
C—Guest Statement of Understanding

1. ADVANTAGES:

a. The Good Samaritan Program is conceived in conjunction with existing unit sponsorship programs to assist the service member with dependents during his initial days at Fort Emerson.

b. Sponsorship programs are designed to maintain unit integrity and provide for the welfare of newly assigned personnel. The present input has decreased immediate assignment effectiveness so that unit sponsorship is often not readily identifiable. The Good Samaritan Program is intended to augment the unit sponsorship effort in regard to temporary lodging.

c. There are various agencies available to the service member for financial assistance; however, there is no program available at present to assist the service member on a non-reimbursable basis.

d. In reality the Program is designed to assist the service member primarily in the area of housing, regardless of the financial situation. The primary determining factor in establishing eligibility for the program is the housing situation in the local area. Financial aspects are secondary in nature.

f. Good Samaritan volunteer hosts will be solicitated from the military and civilian communities by religious and social groups. These hosts will fill out a form as shown in Annex B, which lists their capabilities to host the military family. These hospitality guidelines address space limitations, transportation assistance, accommodation of pets, and ability to provide families with meals in addition to lodging.

g. Military families should not remain under this program for more than three nights as that should allow sufficient time for more suitable arrangements.

h. The relief offered by this program is demonstrated by noting the figures forecast for June 1976, extracted from the Commander's letter of 10 Jan 76 to Mr. Jack Smith, Caostal Area Planning and Development Commission, Virginia Beach, Virgina:

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS MILITARY

	(E-1,E-5)	(E-6,E-9)	(Officers)	Total
Fort Emerson Pers.	2100	375	315	2790
Available on Post	436	104	173	713
Shortfall	1664	271	142	2077

i. In view of current and projected housing shortages, known hardships in finding permanent housing in the immediate and surrounding Fort Emerson, difficulties in perfecting unit sponsorship programs, and the projected strength input, initiation of a Good Samaritan program is a necessary and viable solution in resolving these hardships. The progaram is not designed to solve the housing problem, but alleviate the an xiety incurred by the service person when reporting to this Station.

j. The Good Samaritan Program could be run by a council selected by

Enclosure A

the DPCA at Fort Emerson. Representatives from various post activities will comprise the council and perform the following functions:

(1) Office of the Staff Chaplain: Serve as a collecting point for names.

(2) Housing Division: Maintain the list of volunteers and co-ordinate lodging for eligible families during duty hours.

(3) Replacement/Detachment/Welcome Center: Establish an SOP to carry our the program during non-duty hours.

(4) Army Community Services: Promote publicity of the Good Samaritan program.

2. DISADVANTAGES:

a. The Good Samaritan Program will call for added responsibility and hardship on the hosts.

b. The volunteer nature implicitly indicates that the occupants of military and civilian housing should give up their privacy to accommodate individuals who are victims of poor Department of the Army Personnel Management.

c. On-call personnel are currently functional and designed to deal with after-duty hours problems that may not have been dealt with earlier.

d. Hosts will be vulnerable to various types of abuse from guests from rudeness to vandalism.

e. Temporary solutions tend to "snowball", in the end offering little real return for the investment of time and planning.

f. Implementing such a program will entail extra liaison, paperwork, record keeping and co-ordination on the part of agents concerned with in-processing. This group of individuals is currently overloaded now, as far as these matters are concerned.

g. There is no guarantee that, even if implemented, the plan will assuage the critical nature of an overlaoaded Post in regard to housing.

HOST VOLUNTEER CARD

I would like to offer hospitality in the GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM as stipulated below:

ACCOMMODATIONS For_____No. adults and No._____children and No.____Pets
MEALS: I will provide meals_____Family should contribute_____
Family would have to provide their own meals_____
TRANSPORTATION: I can provide limited transportation_____
I cannot provide transportation_____
NO. OF DAYS: One day and night_____Two days and two nights_____
One weekend_____Holidays are possibility_____
CONTRACT STATEMENT: I wish to be listed as a volunteer for the Good Samaritan Program. I understand that this program exists to assist military personnel with dependents arriving at Fort Emerson in regards to temporary housing when post and adjacent communities capabilities are exhausted. Further, I understand the program exists with no prejudicial restrictions such as race, color, creed, or rank.

ADDRESS:_____PRINTED NAME:_____

UNIT:_____SIGNATURE_____

TELEPHONE NO. (UNIT)_____(QUARTERS)_____

DATE:_____ _____DATES EXCLUDED:_____

Enclosure 6

GUEST STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

To: Family Housing Division

1. I wish to participate in the Good Samaritan Program. I understand this program exists to assist military personnel with dependents arriving at Fort Emerson, especially in providing temporary housing when post facilities and civilian accommodations are no longer available. Further, I understand that the program exists without prejudicial restrictions such as race, color, creed, or rank.

2. I understand that due to the voluntary nature of this program, I will not spend more than three nights with my host, and preferabley, will only spend one night.

3. I understand that I will contact Family Housing after leaving the quarters of my host.

4. The following information pertaining to my family is provided:

a. Total no. in party _____.

b. Ages and sex of children_____,_____,_____,_____,_____,_____.

c. Pets: No. dogs_____, No. cats_____, Other_____.

d. Transportation support required (yes/no)_____.

e. I (can/cannot) provide meals or cover expenses for meals shared with my host.

_____ (PRINTED NAME)

_____ (SIGNATURE)

ANNEX C